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RABBIT RATIONS AND QUANTITIES TO FEED

By George S. Templeton, Director, U. S. Rabbit Experiment Station
Section of Fur Resources, Division of Wildlife Research

Rabbits prefer whole grain to the same grain ground, rolled, or pelleted. Consequently, to save cost of preparation, grains may be fed whole. Protein meals if mixed with the whole grains would settle out and be largely wasted in feeding. The pea-size soybean-oil cake, linseed-oil cake, or the pelleted meals will mix with the grain and thus avoid waste.

Grains, alfalfa, clover, or other legume hay and green feed do not make a satisfactory ration for rabbits. This type of ration is deficient in protein--the part of the ration so necessary for developing and breeding rabbits. Additional protein may be furnished by adding soybean meal, linseed meal, and peanut meal, or the pea-size oil cake or pelleted form of these meals.

At least two grain mixtures are desirable for the herd, according to the groups to be fed, as follows:

Grain Mixture No. 1, for Herd Bucks, Dry Does
and Developing Does and Bucks

(All parts by weight)

Daily Ration

Whole oats.	Proper quantity for 9- to 10-
Whole wheat.	pound bucks, 10- to 12-pound
Whole barley.	does, and developing bucks and
Whole milo, feterita, hegari,	does of medium-weight breeds from
kafir, or sagrain.	10 weeks of age to maturity:
Soybean, linseed, or peanut	2 1/2 ounces of grain mixture No. 1.
meal, either in (1) pea-size	Keep legume hay ^{1/} in mangers.
oil cake or (2) the pelleted	1/10 pound green feed ^{2/} or root
form.	crops ^{3/} .
	White block salt.
	Pure water.

^{1/}Legume hays: Alfalfa, clover, sweet clover, lespedeza, cowpea, vetch, kudzu, soybean, and peanut. Rabbit hays should be well cured, fine stemmed, green color, leafy, and free from mildew or mold.

^{2/}Green feeds: Lawn clippings, rape, cabbage, kale, palatable weeds, waste from garden vegetables, dandelions, small limbs from trimming fruit trees, green growing cereal crops, green legume crops, sweetpotato vines, and similar material.

^{3/}Root crops: Carrots, sweetpotatoes, mangels, turnips, and beets.

(over)

Grain Mixture No. 2, for Does and Litters

(All parts by weight)

Daily Ration

Whole oats.	All of grain mixture No. 2 that will
Whole wheat.	be eaten without waste.
Whole barley.	Keep legume hay ¹ / ₁ in mangers.
Whole milo, feterita, hegari, kafir, or sagrain.	¹ / ₁₀ pound green feed ² / ₂ or root crops ³ / ₃ until young begin to eat; then in- crease the quantity.
Soybean, linseed, or peanut meal, either in (1) pea-size	White block salt.
oil cake, or (2) the pelleted form.	Pure water.

For table footnotes 1, 2, and 3, see Page 1.

The pea-size soybean-oil cake, linseed-oil cake, or peanut oil cake will be available as soon as the demand will justify feed stores in stocking them. The meals can be made into pellets by any mill equipped with a pelletizing machine. The proper size pellet is ³/₁₆ inch in diameter and ¹/₈ inch long. No binding material is necessary.

If it is necessary to feed either soybean meal, linseed meal, or peanut meal in the meal form, half the grains in the ration should be rolled to prevent the meal settling out, and the mixture should be dampened just before feeding.

A measure of convenient size for feeding the grain mixtures is made of a cut-down tin can 2 ¹/₂ inches in diameter and 1 ³/₈ inches deep--capacity 2 ¹/₂ ounces.